

**Listing of the Claims:**

- 1 1. (Previously Presented) In combination, a building structure and a cafeteria tray  
2 accumulator system; the building structure including first and second spaced walls;  
3 the first and second spaced walls defining a space between the walls; the first and  
4 second walls defining loading and unloading windows; the loading window adapted  
5 to allow users to load cafeteria trays laden with dirty dishes into the accumulator  
6 system; the unloading window adapted to allow users to unload the cafeteria trays  
7 from the accumulator system into a dish wash room; the loading and unloading  
8 windows being offset from one another; the cafeteria tray accumulator system  
9 including: a drive track disposed in a looped path within the space between the walls;  
10 the looped path having a pair of transverse legs offset in a vertical direction; both  
11 transverse legs being disposed within the space between the walls: a plurality of  
12 tray-holding cages connected to the drive track; each of the tray-holding cages  
13 adapted to hold a plurality of cafeteria trays; and a drive unit adapted to move the  
14 plurality of cages around the looped path of the drive track.
- 1 2. (Previously Presented) The combination of claim 1, wherein the drive track is  
2 a monorail.
- 1 3. (Previously Presented) The combination of claim 2, further comprising a  
2 counterbalance rail.
- 1 4. (Previously Presented) The combination of claim 3, further comprising a  
2 support bar attached to the drive track for each tray-holding cage; the support  
3 engaging the counterbalance rail.
- 1 5. (Previously Presented) The combination of claim 4, wherein each tray-holding  
2 cage is suspended from the support bar.

1 6. (Previously Presented) The combination of claim 5, wherein each tray-holding  
2 cage is adapted to hold at least three trays.

1 7. (Previously Presented) The combination of claim 1, wherein the transverse legs  
2 of the looped path are offset in a horizontal direction.

1 8. (Previously Presented) The combination of claim 1, wherein the looped path  
2 turns around at least one right angle.

1 9. Canceled

1 10. (Previously Presented) The combination of claim 8, wherein the right angle is  
2 vertical.

1 11. (Previously Presented) The combination of claim 1, wherein the drive track is  
2 disposed in a vertical plane.

12. (Canceled)

13. (Canceled)

14. (Canceled)

15. (Canceled)

1 16. In combination, a building structure and a cafeteria tray accumulator system;  
2 the building structure including a dining area and a dish washing area and first and  
3 second spaced walls; the first and second spaced walls defining a space between the  
4 walls; the first and second walls defining loading and unloading windows; the loading  
5 window disposed at the dining area and being adapted to allow users to load cafeteria  
6 trays into accumulator system; the unloading window disposed at the dish washing  
7 area and being adapted to allow users to unload the cafeteria trays from the  
8 accumulator system; the loading and unloading windows being offset from one

1 another; the cafeteria tray accumulator system including: a monorail drive track  
2 disposed in a looped path disposed within the space between the walls; the looped  
3 path having first and second traverse legs offset in a vertical direction; a plurality of  
4 tray-holding cages conned to the monorail; a counterbalance rail; each cage disposed  
5 intermediate the drive track and the counterbalance rail; each of the tray-holding  
6 cages engaging the counterbalance rail; each of the tray-holding cages adapted to  
7 hold a plurality of trays; and a drive unit adapted to move the plurality of cages  
8 around the looped path of the drive.

1 17. (Previously Presented) The combination of claim 16, wherein the looped path  
2 is disposed in a vertical plane.

1 18. (Previously Presented) The combination of claim 16, wherein the  
2 counterbalance rail is a monorail.

1 19. (Previously Presented) The combination of claim 18, wherein each of the  
2 monorails has a hollow tube section with rollers disposed inside the tube section.

1 20. (Previously Presented) The combination of claim 16, further comprising a  
2 self-supporting frame that carries the drive track and the counterbalance rail.

21. Canceled

22. Canceled

1 23. (New) The combination of a building and a cafeteria tray accumulator system,  
2 comprising:

3 a building having a cafeteria area and a dishwashing area; and

4 a tray accumulator interposed between the cafeteria and the dishwashing area,

5 said tray accumulator comprising:

6 a drive track disposed in a vertically oriented looped path, said looped path

1     having a pair of transverse legs offset in a vertical direction;  
2             a plurality of tray-holding cages connected to the drive track, each said tray-  
3     holding cage adapted to receive and hold a plurality of cafeteria trays; and  
4             a drive unit adapted to move the plurality of cages around said looped path.

1     24.     (New) The combination according to claim 23, wherein said tray accumulator  
2     further comprises a counterbalance rail and said tray-holding cages are disposed  
3     between said drive track and said counterbalance rail.